

AFRICA NEWS

Issued by The Africa Committee of the National
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of
the British Isles.

*"The earth is but one country, and
mankind its citizens."—Bahá'u'lláh.*

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THE GUARDIAN

The world-embracing spiritual crusade, covering the Ten Year Plan, was set out in the Guardian's cable of 8th October 1952, addressed to the American National Spiritual Assembly, as quoted below:

Hail, feelings humble thankfulness, unbounded joy, opening Holy Year commemorating centenary rise Orb Bahá'u'lláh's most sublime Revelation marking consummation six thousand year cycle ushered in Adam, glorified all past Prophets, sealed blood Author Bahá'í Dispensation. Evoke (on this) auspicious occasion glorious memory, acclaim immortal exploits, Dawn-Breakers Apostolic Age Bahá'í Dispensation cradle Faith, mighty feats champion builders its rising World Order Western Hemisphere, as well as multitude valorous achievements past, present generations their brethren European, Asiatic, African, Australian continents, whose combined accomplishments during one hundred nine years its existence contributed survival God's struggling Faith, reinforcement its infant strength, safeguarding unity its supporters, preservation integrity its teachings, enrichment lives its followers, rise institutions its Administrative Order, fashioning agencies for systematic diffusion its light, broadening, consolidation its foundations. Moved express confident hope, as centenary celebrations now commencing attain climax during approaching Ridván period, plans formulated valiant World Bahá'í Community five continents, may each, all, through their victorious consummation, add distinct fresh lustre world-wide festivities constituting collective tribute paid followers Most Great Name (to the) memory august Founder their Faith, in honor centenary birth His Mission, eternal glory His embryonic, majestically unfolding World Order.

Feel hour propitious proclaim entire Bahá'í world projected launching, occasion convocation approaching Intercontinental Conferences four continents globe, fate-laden, soul-stirring, decade-long, world-embracing spiritual crusade involving simultaneous initiation twelve national Ten Year Plans, concerted participation all National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í world, aiming immediate extension Bahá'u'lláh's spiritual dominion as well as eventual establishment structure His Administrative Order (in) all remaining Sovereign States, Principle Dependencies - comprising Principalities, Sultanates, Emirates, Shaykhdoms, Protectorates, Trust Territories, Crown Colonies scattered surface entire planet. Entire body avowed supporters Bahá'u'lláh's all-conquering Faith now summoned achieve (in a) single decade feats eclipsing totality achievements which (in the) course of eleven preceding decades illuminated annals Bahá'í pioneering.

Four-fold objectives forthcoming Crusade, marking third (and) last phase initial epoch evolution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, destined culminate world-wide festivities commemorating fast-approaching Most Great Jubilee. First,

development institutions World Center Faith Holy Land. Second, consolidation, through carefully devised measures, home front (of the) twelve territories destined serve administrative bases operations twelve National Plans. Third, consolidation all territories already opened Faith. Fourth, opening remaining chief virgin territories planet through specific allotments each National Assembly functioning Bahá'í World.

Projected historic, spiritual venture, at once arduous, audacious, challenging, unprecedented scope, character (in the) entire field Bahá'í history, soon to be set motion, involves adoption preliminary measures construction Bahá'u'lláh's Sepulchre Holy Land.

Doubling number countries within pale Faith through planting its banner remaining Sovereign States planet, as well as remaining virgin Territories mentioned 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Tablets Divine Plan, involving opening forty-one countries Asiatic, thirty-three African, thirty European, twenty-seven American continents.

Over twofold increase number languages into which Bahá'í literature translated, printed or (in) process translation - forty Asia, thirty-one Africa, ten each Europe, America, to be allocated American, British, Indian, Australian Bahá'í communities, including for most part those into which Gospels already translated.

Doubling number Mashriqu'l-Adhkars through initiation construction one Asiatic, other European continent. Acquisition site future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar Mount Carmel. Purchase land eleven future Temples, three American, three African, two Asiatic, two European, one Australian continents. Erection first dependency Mashriqu'l-Adhkar Wilmette.

Development functions institution Hands Cause. Establishment Bahá'í Court Holy Land, preliminary emergence Universal House Justice. Codification laws, ordinances Kitab-i-Aqdas, Mother Book Bahá'í Revelation. Establishment six national Bahá'í Courts chief cities Islamic East, Teheran, Cairo, Baghdad, New Delhi, Karachi, Kabul.

Extension international Bahá'í endowments Holy Land - plain 'Akka, slopes Mount Carmel. Construction international Bahá'í Archives neighbourhood Báb's Sepulchre. Construction tomb wife Báb, Shiraz. Identification resting places father Bahá'u'lláh, mother, cousin Báb, reburial Bahá'í cemetery vicinity Most Great House. Acquisition garden Rivdán - Baghdad, site Siyah-Chal - Teheran, martyrdom Báb - Tabriz, His incarceration - Chihriq.

More than quadruple number National Spiritual Assemblies - twenty-one American, thirteen European, ten Asiatic, three African, one Australian continents. Multiply seven-fold national Haziratu'l-Quds (by) their establishment capital cities chief Sovereign States, chief cities principal Dependencies planet, twenty-one America, fifteen Europe, nine Asia, three Africa, one New Zealand. Framing national Bahá'í constitutions, establishment national Bahá'í endowments same capitals and cities (of) same States, Dependencies. More than quintuple number incorporated National Assemblies, twenty-one America, thirteen Europe, twelve Asia, three Africa, one Australasia.

Establishment six national Bahá'í Publishing Trusts, two America, two

Asia, one Africa, one Europe. Participation women Persia membership national, local assemblies. Establishment seven Israel branches National Spiritual Assemblies, two Europe, two Asia, one each America, Africa, Australia. Establishment national Bahá'í printing press Teheran.

Reinforcement ties binding Bahá'í World Community United Nations. Inclusion, circumstances permitting, eleven Republics comprised within Union Soviet Socialist Republics and two European Soviet-controlled States within orbit Administrative Order Faith.

Convocation World Bahá'í Congress vicinity Garden Ridván, Baghdad, third holiest city Bahá'í world, occasion world-wide celebrations Most Great Jubilee, commemorating Centenary Ascension Bahá'u'lláh Throne His Sovereignty.

Current Bahá'í history must henceforth, as second decade second Bahá'í Century opens, move rapidly, majestically as never moved before, since inception Faith over century ago. Earthly symbols Bahá'u'lláh's unearthly Sovereignty must needs, ere decade separating two memorable Jubilee draws close, be raised as far north as Franklin beyond Arctic Circle, as far south as Falkland Islands, marking southern extremity western hemisphere; amidst remote, lonely, inhospitable islands archipelagos South Pacific, Indian, Atlantic Oceans, mountain fastnesses Tibet, jungles Africa, deserts Arabia, steppes Russia, Indian Reservations North America, wastelands Siberia, Mongolia; amongst Eskimos (of) Greenland, Alaska, Negroes (of) Africa, Buddhist strongholds heart Asia, Lapps (of) Finland, Polynesians (of the) South Sea Islands, Negritos (of the) Archipelagos South Pacific Ocean.

Broad outlines world-encircling Plan divinely revealed. Its course charted 'Abdu'l-Bahá's infallible pen. Its shining goals set. Requisite administrative machinery created. Signal given by Author Plan, (its) Supreme Commander. Lord Hosts, King of Kings (has) pledged unfailing aid every crusader battling (for) His Cause. Invisible battalions mustered, rank upon rank, ready pour reinforcements from on high. Bahá'u'lláh's army light standing threshold Holy Year. Let them, as they enter it, vow (with) one voice, one heart, one soul, never (to) turn back (in the) entire course fateful decade ahead until each, every one will have contributed share (to) laying on world-wide scale an unassailable administrative foundation for Bahá'u'lláh's Christ-promised Kingdom on Earth, swelling thereby chorus universal jubilation wherein earth, heaven, will join as prophesied (by) Daniel, echoed (by) 'Abdu'l-Bahá, 'on that day will (the) faithful rejoice with exceeding gladness'.

Call upon fifteen Hands (from) five continents, by virtue their supreme function as chosen instruments propagation Faith, Inaugurate historic mission through appointment, during Ridván 1954, four auxiliary boards each continent, nine members each, who will, as their adjuncts or deputies, and working conjunction various National Assemblies functioning, each continent, assist, through periodic systematic visits Bahá'í centres, efficient, prompt execution twelve projected National Plans. Moreover request communities observing Bahá'í Holy Days, solar calendar, celebrate befitting solemnity approaching anniversary Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday, falling middle two month period during which, a hundred years ago, Author Faith received first intimation His glorious Mission. Advise American Bahá'í Community commemorate (by) special gathering Temple, Wilmette, urge attendance as many believers possible, invite Hands Cause United States, Canada, participate as my representatives.

AFRICA AND THE
TEN YEAR CRUSADE

The Guardian's wonderful cable gives us the goals of the Ten Year Crusade, which is to start in 1953 and finish at Ridván 1963, the Most Great Jubilee, the hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh, of His Mission in the garden of Ridván, outside Baghdad. This "historic spiritual venture" is "at once arduous, audacious, challenging (and) unprecedented (in) scope (and) character (in the) entire field (of) Bahá'í history". Feasts are to be achieved within ten years, which will eclipse all the achievements which have "illuminated annals (of) Bahá'í pioneering" during the past hundred and ten years. All Bahá'ís are summoned to join this "world-embracing spiritual crusade".

First of the goals is the development of the International Institutions of the Faith at its World Centre in Israel. Some landmarks leading up to this have been picked out by the Guardian, amongst them taking the preliminary steps towards the construction of the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, the first of the Guardian's long list of detailed goals. The Hands of the Cause will become the centre of star-clusters as this Institution of the Administrative Order develops. A Bahá'í Court will be established in the Holy Land, one of the stages in the evolution of the Universal House of Justice, and the laws of the Kitab-i-Aqdas will be codified. The Bahá'í Shrines in Israel and elsewhere will be increased and elaborated.

The second goal is the consolidation of the Bahá'í Communities in the twelve territories, which start the Crusade with National Assemblies, of which the United States of America, Persia, Egypt, India, and the British Isles will help to prosecute the Crusade in Africa.

The third goal is the consolidation of territories already opened to the Faith, of which there should be twelve in Africa by next Ridván.

The fourth goal is the opening of 131 countries to the Faith to ensure that every country of the world has Bahá'í representatives in it. To do this in Africa, pioneers are to be sent to thirty-three more countries.

In the course of achieving these ends, three more National Assemblies will be established in Africa, making, with the Egyptian National Assembly, four in that continent. These National Assemblies are to be legally incorporated, and each will have its own Haziratu'l-Quds and National Bahá'í endowments. Three of the four African National Communities will have purchased land for a Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, and one of them will have a branch in Israel, in whose name some of the Bahá'í property in the Holy Land will no doubt be registered. One Bahá'í Publishing Trust is to be established in Africa for the local publication of Bahá'í literature. The number of African languages into which Bahá'í literature has been translated, is to be increased by thirty-one, making it available in forty-four African languages.

The way to these goals may be hard and bring many trials to those who pursue it, but the Guardian assures us that the Lord of Hosts, the King of Kings, has pledged unfailing aid to every crusader battling for His Cause. "Invisible battalions mustered rank upon rank (are) ready to pour reinforcements from on high." He appeals to all who participate to vow never to turn back until each and every one has contributed his share to the Crusade.

Meanwhile, there is still a little time left to complete the goals already


set, to open the remaining allocated countries to the Faith, and to establish an Assembly in Nairobi. May those assembled at the first Intercontinental Conference in Kampala next February find all the present goals on their way to fulfillment and the way cleared for the gigantic strides which are to be made in the coming years.

In the same cable the specific aims of the Africa Conference are described as "representative of British, American, Persian, Egyptian, Indian National Spiritual Assemblies, to which Bahá'is residing in Persia, the Indian subcontinent, the British Isles and every territory of the African Continent (will be) invited (to) attend, aiming (at) planting (the) banner (of the) Faith (in the) remaining territories (and) neighbouring islands east, south and west of the African Continent.

THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE

The African Conference has been arranged to meet at Kampala on February 12th - 18th 1953. Meetings will be held in a marquee obtained from America, capable of holding 120 people, to be erected in the grounds of the Hazira, recently purchased on the instructions of the Guardian. Prior to the Conference, a Unity Feast will be held in the afternoon of February 11th. The programme, which has received the Guardian's approval, consists of two parts: (a) Discussion of the Ten Year Crusade and what it involves, and (b) Methods of teaching and deepening to be used for new believers. It is hoped that all the Hands of the Cause will take part in the programme.

This is the first of the four Conferences, originally announced by the Guardian in his cable to the American National Assembly, dated November 30th 1951, for the purpose of "immortalising (the) Centenary (of the) memorable year, anticipated by St. John (the) Divine, foreshadowed (by) Shaykh Ahmad, eulogised (by the) Báb, extolled (by) both Bahá'u'lláh (and) 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and constituting (the) prelude (to the) Most Great Jubilee, which will alike commemorate (the) Centenary (of the) formal assumption (by the) Author (of the) Bahá'í Revelation (of) His Prophetic Office, (and) mark, God Willing, (the) world-wide establishment (of the) Faith forecast (by the) Centre (of the) Covenant (in) His Tablets, prophesied (by) Daniel (in) his book, thus paving (the) way (for the) Advent (of the) Golden Age, destined (to) witness world recognition, universal proclamation (and) ultimate triumph (of the) Cause of Bahá'u'lláh".



PIONEERS

We learn that Mr. Mansoor Masrur from Persia, has settled in Casablanca in Morocco, and his wife and family, with possibly his father-in-law and mother-in-law, will join him soon. This would establish a community of four in Casablanca.

Mr. Ezattullah Zahrai from Persia, has obtained a visa for Tanganyika and is already on his way to Dar-es-Salaam.

Mrs. Suriya Yazdi, with her three children, left London on October 29th and joined her husband in Nairobi. Mr. M. Afsharian from Persia, has also arrived, and there is now a community of four. Aziz Yazdi is Chairman, Ted Cardell Secretary, and M. Afsharian Treasurer.

Mrs. Shomais Afnan has been appointed to a position in a nursing home in

Salisbury, in Southern Rhodesia, and will be leaving England in January, attending the Conference at Kampala en route. She is going to Southern Rhodesia on the special advice of the Guardian.

Mr. Soheil Samandari, a Persian Bahá'í, who has previously pioneered in Pakistan, has obtained a visa for Italian Somaliland and will leave for that territory in the near future.

LIBERIA Mr. William Foster reports that there are now twenty declared Bahá'ís in Monrovia (Liberia), but an Assembly will not be elected until 21st April 1953, in accordance with the directions of the Guardian. The group has, however, been organised with officers and committees, and a regular schedule of weekly meetings and study groups has been arranged.

Two of the new Monrovia Bahá'ís, Mr. Rudolph Amartey and Mr. Magnus I. Amegashie, have been awarded Government scholarships to study in American colleges. Mr. Amartey plans to go to the Gold Coast when he has completed his studies.

Miss Valerie Wilson is going to pioneer in Liberia, and left the U.S. on 5th November. It is felt that she will be of the greatest assistance to the Bahá'í Group.

THE SAHARA EXPEDITION Since Mr. R. St. Barbe Baker left England, we have had no direct news of him, but indirectly we learn that he was delayed in North Africa partly by faults which developed in his Desert Humber, but more through the anxiety of the various local authorities to avoid untoward incidents. Both the French and Belgian authorities demanded heavy deposits to cover the cost of possible rescue of the team from the desert. These delays held the team back, but enabled them to establish contacts with forestry officers in the North African areas, and to carry out preliminary research and survey work.

In an article in the Daily Telegraph of 8th November, Mr. St. Barbe Baker has described the damage done by the destruction of forests and trees in North Africa since the days of the Roman Empire. The countries to the south of the Mediterranean Sea supplied Carthage, Greece, Egypt and later Rome, with timber and charcoal, and the Sahara, which was once the granary of Rome, has been further devastated by nomadic Arabs and their goats, which are the greatest menace to forest and undergrowth. Mr. Baker discusses possible methods of reclamation by irrigation and re-afforestation. The expedition is now well on its way to Central Africa, en route for Kampala and later Kenya.

POLITICS 'Abdu'l-Bahá says: "Tell the ambassador that the standard by which a Baha'i can be distinguished from a non-Baha'i is this: Whoever interferes in political affairs and says or does something beyond his competence, that is a sufficient proof that he is not a Bahá'í; no other proof is needed,"

Elsewhere He says: "Beware, beware, lest anyone of the believers interferes in political affairs, or gives utterance to a word of that nature. According to explicit divine commands the friends of God have no hand in political affairs. Rather the object of all is: betterment of morals, education

of souls, unity of purpose, love and kindness, oneness and amity and the appearance of divine occurrences in the world of man."

Again, elsewhere He says: "Another thing is this, tell the friends of God that no one should ever interfere in the affairs of the Government, by word, by action, or by narration, and that they should always pray for the good of those who are in charge of affairs, because according to the explicit divine command, they are forbidden to interfere."

COMMITTEES Membership of some of the Committees connected with the Africa Project is as follows:

British Africa Committee

Mr. Henry F. Backwell - chairman
and treasurer
Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby - secretary
Mrs. Constance Langdon-Davies
Mr. John Ferraby
Dr. Mehdi Samandari
Mr. Marcel Mihailoff

Uganda Teaching Committee

Mr. Moussa Banani - treasurer
Mr. Ali Nakhjavani - chairman
Mr. Philip Hainsworth - secretary
Mrs. Mary Collison
Mr. Nathan Olei
Mr. Enoch Olinga

Teso (Uganda) District Teaching
Committee

Mr. Gabuleri Okirori - chairman
Mr. Nathan Olei - secretary
Mr. Enos Epyeru
Mr. Gabuleri Okwalinga
Mr. Semu Omurwok
Mr. Yowasi Idoko
Mr. Stanley Ikara

Mbale (Uganda) District Teaching
Committee

Mr. Zerubaberi Mutale - chairman
Mr. Wanyagala Masaba - secretary
Mr. Tito Wanantsusi
Mr. Mutambo Masaba
Mr. Kerement Wandegar
Mr. Zadoke Patrik Kiria
Mr. Samson K. Mungono

Persian Africa Committee

Mr. Hosein Mahbubi - chairman and treasurer
Mr. Jamshid Munajjim - secretary
Mr. Zikrullah Khadim
Mr. Mohammad Ishraghi
Mr. Jalal Olfat
Mr. Jalal Sahihi
Mr. Ihsan Samimi

U. S. Africa Committee

Miss Elsie Austin - chairman
Mrs. Bessie Barham - secretary
Mrs. Marie Rice
Mr. Matthew Bullock
Mr. Lawrence Hautz
Mr. Rex Parmelee
Mr. Amoz Gibson
Mrs. Ethel Stephens

Miss Beatrice Vigo
Mrs. Loulie Matthews
Mr. Rassin Wurie
Mrs. Hazel Langrall
Miss Helena Robinson
Mrs. Ethel Claussen
Mrs. Marguerite Sears
Mr. Albert James
Mrs. Ludmillah van Sombeek

RESUME DES NOUVELLES

De l'Uganda Notre très aimé Gardien a appelé Kampala, la capitale de ce territoire, le "coeur spirituel de l'Afrique", d'après les rapports que nous avons eus après la visite de Madame et Monsieur Banani à Haiffa. Depuis leur retour, notre Foi a pris un essor qu'il est difficile de comparer avec les développements du passé. La croissance de la Foi s'y est déroulée ainsi. Une avant garde de pionniers, deux familles persanes, les Bananis et les Nakhjavanis, et un Anglais, Philip Hainsworth, s'installèrent à Kampala en Août 1951. Les premières déclarations furent de 4 Africains de différentes tribus et la première Assemblée fut dûment formée.

Un de nos nouveaux frères Africains, Enoch Olinga, prit l'occasion d'une vacance pour retourner à sa tribu, les Teso, où il semble avoir passé tout son temps à propager la Foi. Ceci prit place en Juillet. Son passage a provoqué de tels remous parmi les gens qu'il visita, que Ali Nakhjavani, dès le retour d'Enoch, retourna sur les pas de ce dernier, aidé les weekends par Philip et des autres, tant et si bien, que non seulement y a-t'il environ 130 Bahá'is en Uganda, mais que les débuts du système administratif de la Foi ont été établis, avec la formation d'un comité ugandien pour l'enseignement de la Foi, appuyé par des comités de districts. Nos prières pour la continuation de ce travail resplendissant sont plus nécessaires que jamais.

Parmi les nombreuses actions de ces nouveaux fidèles, il faut rapporter que l'un d'eux a offert sa maison pour être un des nouveaux centres administratifs (Haziratu'l-Quds) jusqu'on pourra bâtir une maison spéciale.

Du Tanganyika Il y a maintenant 11 Bahá'is à Dar-es-Salaam. Les conditions sont bien différentes du climat salubre de Kampala, mais l'Assemblée travaille, prend avantage de toutes les occasions que se présentent, et a même déjà contribué au Plan par l'envoi d'un de ses premiers adhérents, Mr. D. Dudley-Smith Kuntendele, qui est retourné au Nyasaland, sa patrie. L'Assemblée a aussi établi un comité pour faciliter l'entrée des pionniers en Afrique de l'Est, en essayant de leur trouver des emplois.

Du Kenya Ils y sont maintenant 4. Aziz Yazdi, Mahmoud Afsharian, Ted Cardell et Suriya Yazdi, qui vont être joints très bientôt par Claire Gung. Naturellement les désordres récents ont rendu leur tâche difficile, mais ils rapportent déjà une déclaration.

Notre Gardien bien aimé, dans son dernier câble décrivant les objectifs de la croisade de dix ans, qui commencera en Ridván 1953, nous a donné des buts à accomplir en Afrique, des Assemblées Nationales tant que Locales à établir, des centres administratifs et des traductions. Mr. Zikrullah Khadem, Main de la Cause de Dieu, a reçu la commande de Shoghi Effendi de visiter tous les Bahá'is d'Afrique lors de son séjour en Afrique pour la Conférence,